



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JULIE JOHNSON

DISTRICT 115

Dear Residents of House District 115,

This first month of the 86th Legislative Session has flown by and I am thrilled to be representing you here at the Capitol. I have already had countless meetings with constituents, supporters, colleagues, and advocate groups. To keep in contact with the constituents back home, I will be sending out monthly updates on the happenings of the Legislature and in District 115. This newsletter will provide you with information on important legislation and debates at the Capitol, as well as constituent highlights in Austin and at home.

Your representative,
Julie Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

January Report
Published February 3, 2019

Rep. Johnson in the News

House freshman from Addison wants to let school property levy float -- below voter-endorsed level

Five women start Texas Legislature's first LGBTQ caucus

Openly gay Dallas County lawmaker Julie Johnson is making history in the Texas House, and so is her wife

House District in the News

Irving Police Launch Mental Health Response Team

Rainwaters honored for Carrollton MLK parade

Coppell ISD parents ask for more diversity in boundary realignment plan

Legislative Updates

Swearing-In

On January 8th, surrounded by her family, Rep. Julie Johnson was sworn-in as the State Representative for House District 115. Immediately after House members were sworn-in they elected a new Speaker of the House for the first time in 10 years. With a unanimous vote, Dennis Bonnen of Angleton, became Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. "In a state as big and diverse as Texas, there are plenty of ideas about how we should do any one of these issues. And these ideas often point in a different direction. It is our job to reconcile the differences," said Speaker Bonnen. "This chamber is a perfect place for those ideas to be heard. We must do that with mutual respect and understanding for one another. And in doing so, we will justify the trust that our constituents have placed on us to represent them in this great chamber."

Filed Bills

Representative Johnson's first bill; House Bill 959, is a step toward enhancing local governance and lowering property taxes. It would allow school districts to adjust their property tax rates without holding elections; which are costly. "We are here to try to make [things] better for our district and our voters," Johnson said, saying the bill helps her redeem a campaign pledge. "Property taxes are too high in Texas ... and we've gotta do something about it."

[Learn more or track this bill](#)

Committee Assignments

Speaker Bonnen appointed Rep. Johnson to the prestigious House Committee's on Insurance and on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence. In these committees, Rep. Johnson will hear legislation and testimony on matters pertaining to insurance, civil law, civil procedure, administrative law, and more. Committees are also charged with oversight of state agencies. "I am excited to utilize my experience as a trial lawyer on the Insurance and Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence committees to advocate for legislation that protects everyday Texans," said Rep. Johnson. "I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle on critical matters such as creating avenues for accessible and affordable healthcare, and I am grateful to Speaker Bonnen for his leadership and thoughtfulness on today's committee selections. Through these committee assignments, I will have the opportunity to work on crafting laws that will ensure that Texans are able to see a doctor when they get sick."



Rep. Johnson on swearing-in day, Jan 8

Joint-Authored Bills

Representative Celia Israel has filed House Bill 517 which deems conversion therapy for minors an unprofessional and illegal act on the part of healthcare providers. Representative Johnson is proud to be a joint author of this bill which is a step toward the elimination of LGBTQ discrimination and condemnation.

Representative Matt Krause has filed House Bill 649 which would require the disclosure of policy information to third-party claimants, providing more transparency and accountability on the part of health insurers. Representative Johnson is excited to serve as a joint author for this bill and hopes for more opportunities to work across the aisle on legislation that is beneficial for all Texans.

Sexual Harassment Policy

One of the first orders of business at the Legislature was adopting a more comprehensive sexual harassment policy for the Texas House. Over the interim, Rep. Donna Howard (Austin) co-lead a working group that was tasked with recommending measures that would strengthen the current policy. Texas House members unanimously voted for a policy that mandates third-party investigations of complaints and harassment prevention training.



Rep. Johnson and her family on swearing-in day. From left: Nick, Rep. Johnson, Dr. Sue Moster, and Ben.

Student Artist Highlight

I am honored to host artwork from high school students from across the district in my Capitol Office. Each month we will highlight a few artists and their work displayed in Austin. In this newsletter, enjoy the works of student artists, and if you or your school is interested in showcasing artwork, please reach out to our District Director, Sarah Slamen, at sarah.slamen@house.texas.gov.

Our January artists are:

Brittany Given, Ranchview High School
Zainab Gangardiwala, Coppell High School
Madison Patton, Coppell High School
Isabella Droz, Coppell High School
Catherine Fuselier, Coppell High School
Joseph Ortega, Wilson Elementary School
Yeon Hong, Wilson Elementary School

Thank you to our student artists for sharing their creative talents!



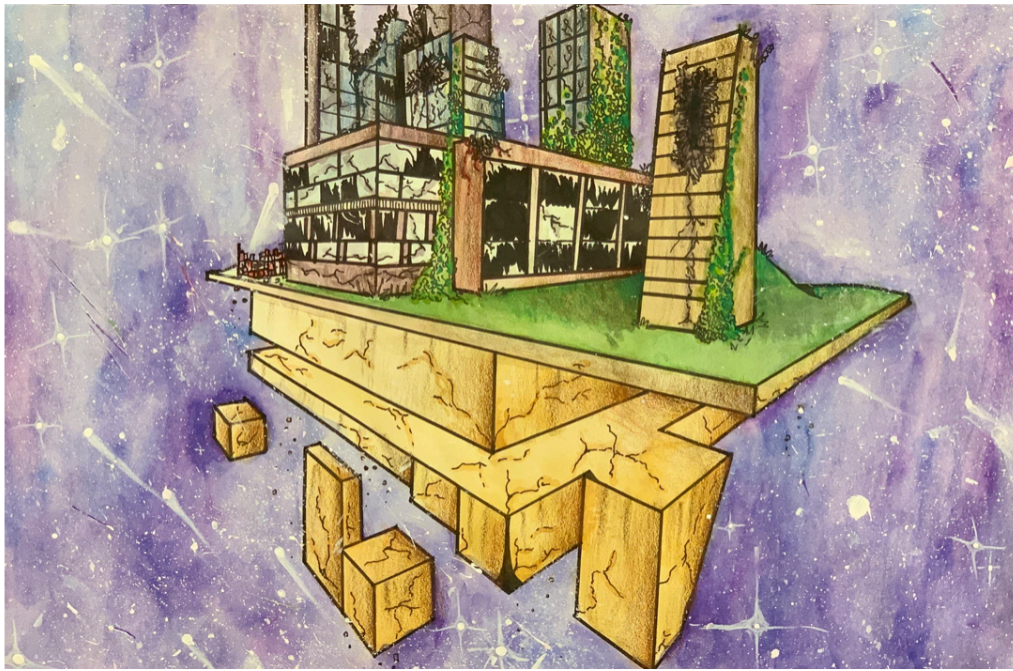
Child in Me by Brittany Given

Artist's Statement:

Child in Me represents a moment of joy and innocence of two siblings at very different places in their lives. My little brother is so far removed from me in age that our interests rarely connect. However, in small amounts we find the joy of family.



Caught in the Undertow by Brittany Given



Dual Reality by Madison Patton, Coppell High School



Medieval Castle by Zainab Gangardiwala, Coppell High School

HD115 in Austin



Rep. Johnson meeting with Brookhaven Student Government Association members.



Mayor of Coppel Karen Hunt and the City Manager Michael Lamb visited to discuss important legislative issues affecting the city of Coppel. (left)

Students from North Lake College visited to discuss issues related to performance-based funding, transfer issues, guided pathways to success, and sports gambling. (right).



ASA North Texas members and constituents visited to discuss Lien Law Modernization, addressed by [HB589](#) by Rep. Deshotel. (left).

United Methodist Women from Coppell visited to discuss the importance of early public education. (right).



Meeting with TEX21 members.

Team Julie in District



Rep. Johnson presented her first resolution to Rev. Willie Rainwater of Carrollton in honor of his civil rights work and service to the community for putting on the Carrollton MLK Jr. Parade for 25 years.



Rep. Johnson delivering a speech to constituents who showed up to renew their voter registration credentials in Coppell, TX



2019 Dallas Women's March Press Conference



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